

SEEKING PARTY HARMONY.

SENATE STEERING COMMITTEE CONSIDERS THE PRESIDENT.

The President Frankly Tells the Committee That He Favors the House Puerto Rico Tariff Bill and Desires Its Passage—As to the Reciprocity Treaties He Says That Their Fate Is Now Left to the Senate.

WASHINGTON, March 7.—Today's early adjournment of the Senate, owing to the announcement of the President's illness, was a quiet day in the upper chamber. The President's illness, however, was not the only cause of the quietude. The Senate was also quiet because of the President's illness. The President's illness, however, was not the only cause of the quietude. The Senate was also quiet because of the President's illness.

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PLAGUE SCARE IN SAN FRANCISCO.

Suspicious Symptom in Chinaman's Death—Cordon Around Chinese Quarter.

SAN FRANCISCO, March 7.—The Board of Health announced today that a case of bubonic plague had been discovered in Chinatown and called on the Chief of Police to put a cordon around the Chinese quarter. This was done. A cordon was placed around the building in which the Chinaman died and no one was allowed to leave the quarter or enter it. The reason was that many people were coming from hotels, restaurants and private homes in this morning. The street car lines which intersect Chinatown were stopped.

The Chinaman who died showed the swellings of the glands in the groin, but these swellings did not differ materially from those of a common infection. The Chinaman was a Chinese and his name was not given. He was a Chinese and his name was not given. He was a Chinese and his name was not given.

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A TALK FROM JAS. R. KEENE

DENIAL THAT HE HAD A HAND IN B. R. T. RUMOR-MONGERING

Or Lost Money on Third Avenue Stock—Saw That It Was a Gold Brick and Got Rid of It the Day After He Got It—All He Knows About Davis—Doesn't Know Gollu

JAMES R. KEENE announced today at 4 o'clock yesterday afternoon that he would put out a paper which would clear up the rumors which had been spread about him. He said that he had not had a hand in the B. R. T. case. He said that he had not had a hand in the B. R. T. case. He said that he had not had a hand in the B. R. T. case.

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VIRGINIA AGAINST A DRASTIC LAW.

Enactment Which Authorizes Examination of Private Papers Causes a Storm.

NORFOLK, Va., March 7.—A storm of indignation has arisen here against an act passed by the Virginia Legislature last night. The act is known as the "Valuation Law." It provides for the appointment in each of the several cities or districts of the State of a Commissioner to examine the private papers of the residents of the district.

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FRANCE WATCHES ENGLAND

READY, A DIPLOMAT SAYS, FOR ANY WARLIKE MOVEMENT

The Probability of Trouble Discussed in Official Circles—Every Step Taken by England Is Met with a Precautionary Step by France—Colonial Defence Plans.

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PROF. E. J. PHILIPS SAYS.

His Physicians Say That Hope of Recovery Must Be Given Up.

NEW HAVEN, Conn., March 7.—It was said tonight by Dr. Charles J. Foote, who is attending Prof. Edward J. Phelps, who is critically ill from the effects of pneumonia, that the professor could not live many days longer. It is the first time that the physician in the case has given up hope of recovery. Dr. Foote said that Prof. Phelps was gradually sinking. He said that Prof. Phelps was gradually sinking. He said that Prof. Phelps was gradually sinking.

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BOER FORCES IN RETREAT.

GEN. FRANK'S CAVALRY TURNS THE ENEMY'S LEFT FLANK.

Drives Them Out of Well-Made Trenches at Oosfontein With Little Loss—Gen. Roberts Reports the Movement a Complete Success—Boer Communication With Bloemfontein Threatened—Gen. Buller's Advance in Natal Believed to Be Only a Reconnaissance—The Rebellion of the Dutch Spreeds in Western Cape Colony.

LOVEDON, March 7.—Gen. Roberts's cavalry under Gen. French have repeated the tactics which drove Gen. Cronje from Magersfontein, compelling Commandants De Wet and Delany to withdraw the Boer army which had entrenched itself opposite the British at Oosfontein.

The War Office received the following despatch from Gen. Roberts this afternoon: "OOSFONTAIN, March 7, 4.30 P. M.—Our operations to-day promise to be a great success. The enemy occupied a position four miles north and eleven miles south of Molder River. I placed Colville's division, the Ninth, to the north and Kelly-Kenny's, the Sixth, and Tucker's divisions, the Seventh, with the cavalry to the south.

The cavalry succeeded in turning the enemy's left flank and opening a road for the Sixth Division which is advancing and has not been obliged to fire a shot up to the present time. The enemy are in full retreat northward and eastward. The cavalry, horse artillery and mounted infantry are closely following them, while Tucker's and Colville's divisions and the Guards brigade are making their way across the river at Poplar Drift where I propose to make my headquarters this evening.

"I trust our casualties are few. The enemy were quite unprepared for the attack by flank threatening their communications with Bloemfontein." Later this despatch was received: "POPULAR GROVE, March 7, 7.35 P. M.—We have had a very successful day. We have completely routed the enemy, who are in full retreat. The position they occupied was extremely strong and cunningly arranged, with a second line of intrenchments, which would have caused us heavy loss had a direct attack been made.

"The turning movement was necessarily wide, owing to the nature of the ground, and the cavalry and artillery horses are much done up. The fighting was practically confined to the cavalry division, which, as usual, did exceedingly well. Gen. French reports that the horse artillery did great execution on the enemy, who were commanded by De Wet and Delany. Our casualties were fifty.

"Gen. Roberts gives the names of an officer who was killed and two who were severely wounded. The only detail that can be added to Gen. Roberts's full account of the movement is that the Boers abandoned one gun, immense quantities of forage and a large number of tents. Gen. French's mounted troops are now pursuing the enemy, and the Boers north of the Molder River are evacuating the position.

There is nothing to indicate the purpose of Gen. Roberts's operation or whether that purpose was effected by the receding retreat of the enemy. If his intention was to surround the Boers it obviously failed. It was merely to cut off their communications with Bloemfontein. It has so far succeeded, but the Boer army escaped.

Speculation in the absence of further information is of little use, but the result of the day's work does not wholly satisfy the critics here. The military expert of the Morning Post declares that the results most disappointing. A good column, he says, is not satisfied with an enemy's retreat. He wishes to destroy the enemy. The expert takes comfort by delecting from the haste with which the Boers bolted when their flank was menaced that recent events have apparently demoralized them.

The news is no official information regarding Gen. Buller's position or movements. His reported advance in the direction of Harrismith appears to be merely a reconnaissance, which did not ascend the eastern slopes of the Drakensberg Mountains. It would be premature to assume that he intends to try to force the Orange River.

The only news from the Portersburg neighborhood is contained in a despatch dated March 7, in which it is reported that the British main column is moving forward with the view of taking a position to the north of that from which the Boers retreated. The Boers, however, are not moving forward with the view of taking a position to the north of that from which the Boers retreated. The Boers, however, are not moving forward with the view of taking a position to the north of that from which the Boers retreated.